

What is Claimed Is:

1. An airbag device comprising:
an airbag for being deployed in a predetermined rider protection area of a vehicle;
an inflator operable to inflate the airbag in the rider protection area;
a retainer for the inflator;
at least a portion of the airbag exposed from the retainer; and
a mount between the airbag portion and vehicle for securing the airbag portion to the vehicle.
2. The airbag device of claim 1 wherein the airbag includes another portion disposed in the retainer.
3. The airbag device of claim 1 wherein the retainer has a size closer to that of the inflator due to the airbag portion exposed therefrom.
4. The airbag device of claim 3 wherein the entire airbag is exposed from the retainer and the retainer size closely approximates that of the inflator.
5. The airbag device of claim 1 wherein the mount comprises fastening members which minimize airbag displacement when inflated and restraining a vehicle rider during accident conditions.
6. The airbag device of claim 5 wherein the fastening members are rivets, bolts or clips.
7. The airbag device of claim 1 wherein the airbag portion includes a cover therefor to protect the exposed airbag portion from the environment external of the retainer.

8. The airbag device of claim 7 wherein the airbag portion is folded in a predetermined manner, and the cover includes a protective material which maintains the airbag portion folded.
9. The airbag device of claim 1 in combination with the vehicle with the vehicle comprising a motorcycle having a handlebar to which the mount secures the airbag portion.
10. The airbag device of claim 9 wherein the airbag portion extends along the handlebars.
11. The airbag device of claim 1 in combination with the vehicle with the vehicle comprising a motorcycle having a handlebar forwardly of the rider protection area and body portions with the mount securing the airbag portion to one of the body portions so that the airbag portion spans the handlebar transversely thereto.
12. The airbag device of claim 11 wherein the retainer is rearwardly of the handlebar, and the airbag portion extends forwardly over the handlebar.
13. The airbag device of claim 11 wherein the retainer is forwardly of the handlebar, and the airbag extends rearwardly over the handlebar.
14. An airbag device for a motorcycle having a body and a handlebar, the motorcycle airbag device comprising:
 - an airbag for being deployed in a predetermined rider protection area rearwardly of the handlebar;
 - a retainer mounted to the motorcycle body; and
 - at least a portion of the airbag extending external of the retainer and secured to at least one of the motorcycle body and handlebar so that displacement of the inflated airbag upon rider impact therewith is minimized.

15. The motorcycle airbag device of claim 14 wherein the handlebar has an elongate configuration, and the airbag portion is configured to extend lengthwise along the elongate handlebar.
16. The motorcycle airbag device of claim 15 including mounting members that secure the airbag portion to the handlebar.
17. The motorcycle airbag device of claim 14 wherein the airbag portion extends transverse to the handlebar.
18. The motorcycle airbag device of claim 17 including mounting members that secure the airbag portion to the motorcycle body.
19. The motorcycle airbag device of claim 17 wherein the retainer is disposed rearwardly of the handlebar, and the airbag portion extends forwardly over the handlebar.
20. The motorcycle airbag device of claim 17 wherein the retainer is disposed forwardly of the handlebar, and the airbag portion extends rearwardly over the handlebar.
21. The motorcycle airbag device of claim 17 wherein the motorcycle body includes an instrument panel adjacent the handlebar to which the airbag portion is secured.
22. The motorcycle airbag device of claim 14 wherein the handlebar has a central portion and opposite operating portions that extend upwardly and outwardly from the central portion to form a recessed space therebetween, and the airbag portion extends either transversely to the handlebar central portion or along the handlebar portions such that upon airbag deployment interference with the handlebar is substantially avoided for smooth airbag inflation.